



Curly Flat

August 2020

No. 62

VINE To WINE

Museum Release 2016 Vintage

2018 Releases - exceptional wine in unusual times...

Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to those who have supported Curly Flat through these unsettled months. We perpetually strive to repay such support by providing both quality and value in the one glass. With the outstanding response, from reviewers and customers alike, to our 2018 Estate Pinot Noir, along with the exciting inaugural release of our site specific Western and Central bottlings, we feel like we are delivering upon that promise. While the Central and Western Pinots have sold out, stocks of our estate labels of 2018 Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Gris currently remain...



Reviews from Halliday 2021 Wine Companion

2018 Estate Curly Flat Pinot Noir

“Fine, elegant and fragrant cherry and pomegranate fruit. Overall balance and length are very good.” 96 points

2018 Curly Flat ‘Western’ Pinot Noir “Clones 115 and 114 contribute fragrance and supple mouthfeel. The most elegant and delicate, although persistent, bouquet and palate of the Curly Flat Pinots.” 96 points

2018 Curly Flat ‘Central’ Pinot Noir “Wild-fermented ‘MV6 from the oldest (‘92) plantings contributes aromatics and tannins to the blend. Dark fruits/plums and superfine tannins.” 95 points

2018 Curly Flat Chardonnay “Elegant and perfectly balanced, it is maturing at a reassuringly slow pace, promising more still when fully mature. The flavours are poised between stone fruit and citrus.” 95 points

2018 Curly Flat Pinot Gris

“Hand-picked, whole-bunch pressed fermented in used French barriques with high solids juice, matured in barrel for 5 months. In best Curly Flat tradition, the end result is a very good Gris with a bite to the fruit that isn’t common.” 91 points.

Museum release returns to showcase 2016 vintage

For the next 6 months, 2016 Curly Flat Chardonnay and Pinot Noir will be available at current release prices. The museum release gives you the opportunity to purchase a wine with some bottle age, without paying a premium.

As an added bonus, when you purchase a dozen 2016 Curly Flat Chardonnay, you’ll receive an additional 5% discount (on top of the 10% discount for purchasing a dozen or more). Historically a large percentage of our Chardonnay is sold through restaurants and airlines; the pandemic is giving those sectors a battering, so you can get 2016 Chardonnay, at an extra discount, from our restaurant allocation.

2016 - Vintage Recap

The 2016 growing season was consistently warm, but with only one day exceeding 40° at our vineyards. The pairing of seasonal warmth and our cool climate site produced powerful, concentrated wines in both flavour and structure while maintaining tension of acidity to age gracefully. Both wines are drinking beautifully now, and will continue that trajectory effortlessly until the decades end, if not longer.

Reviews on the 2016 Chardonnay

A rich and complex wine with good balance between the fruit, oak and acidity. 95 points

James Halliday, Wine Companion

Footy player power, ballet dancer delicacy.

Delicious full bodied Victorian

Chardonnay. 95 points, **Andrew Graham**

Lots of tension with very bright fruit. Lots to bite on.

Crystal clear. **Jancis Robinson**

Reviews on the 2016 Pinot Noir

Glorious bouquet with a riot of spices, red fruits and forest notes; the palate has exceptional structure – the fruit/oak/tannin trilogy is perfect. 96 points **James Halliday**

A polished gem from top to toe, it flows seamlessly from the first whiff to a long lingering finish. Oozing class and charisma, fruit and oak are perfectly handled delivering a wine of opulence and respectability.

95 points **Steve Leszczinski**, Q Wine

This ’16 Curly Flat is a lovely, generous example of Macedon Pinot Noir... a real sense of fullness, the warm year filling out the palate. A bigger wine in context, but not to the point of excess. 94 points **Andrew Graham**, Australian Wine Review



Vale Lisa Kimmorley 1969-2020

In June of this year, we bore the loss of Lisa Kimmorley, our vineyard manager of eleven vintages (2009-2019) who sadly lost her battle with triple negative breast cancer. Lisa joined our team way back in 2003 with an affinity for all things that grow and honed a sharp eye for viticultural detail that eventually saw her take on the manager's role mid 2008.



Photo Kim Selby

Lisa oversaw a variety of vintage conditions ranging from the naturally great growing years to the most challenging to date, but connecting each of those vintages was the pristine fruit that was unfailingly delivered to the winery. When not tending to vines, Lisa turned her keen eyes towards her deep passion for nature photography, which lives on through her blog lisakimmorley.com. Lisa will be deeply missed and will forever be an integral part of our culture that pursues viticultural excellence.

Vintage 2020 Report

They say good things come in small packages, well, that will make 2020 a belter. While our tonnage was lower than normal, we are far from down about it. 2020 was a challenging year for most producers in Australia and we are grateful for just having a crop let alone one of superb quality. The wines are taking shape in barrel and are expressing differently than last two previous vintages. That is not to say 2020 is without connection to those years, the underlying structures being the consistent theme. Floral yet brooding fruit sounds off against more mineral, savoury complexity. With our coolest January to March since 2012 (a great vintage!) these are wines with less obvious sun influence and more of the place they were grown. Exciting wines for sure. With that, our 2019 Chardonnay and 2019 Estate, Central & Western Pinot Noirs are taking shape beautifully and we look forward to releasing them to you next year.



A cellar door closes, a virtual one opens!

While our cellar door is **currently closed for tastings**, treat our website as our virtual cellar door for all your Curly needs; you'll find current and vintage releases and more. Please check our website before visiting. You can make a purchase, or otherwise get in touch, via email or phone.

Used barrels are available at Curly Flat; \$75 for half or \$140 for a whole barrel. Best to phone in advance to ensure we have barrels cut and ready to go.



Curly Flat Pinot Noir 2018 Range.

Damn Good Macedon Pinot.

Andrew Graham - Australian Wine Review - July 14th 2020

This article is abridged, head to ozwinereview.com.au for full extract

“The 2018 Curly Flat Pinot range is very very good. Things are different this year, however... the decision was made to instead focus on terroir rather than a blend...All \$53, all wild fermented, with up to 28 days on skins, and all spending 16 months in barrel.

It's easy to read too much into a terroir exercise like this, your brain trying to convince your nose that the wines are different. But the contrasts, the personalities here are distinct, even though we're just talking about different blocks. What's probably more instructive is to work backwards. What is it about aspect, about clones, about slight variations in ripeness or whole bunch inclusions that can make these three wines, produced from blocks that are adjoining each other, taste so varied?

Ultimately the answer is academic, but it reminds, yet again, that wine is bloody awesome. And so are these wines.”

Curly Flat Pinot Noir 2018

Immediately prettier than the ‘Central’ wine, though not as high toned as the Western. It's a generous Curly Flat Pinot, with quintessential red fruit through nose and palate. Tannic too. It's a step-up wine, a ‘let's get serious about Pinot Noir’ release, of compelling grip and power plus prettiness. Good. Better than good, it's excellent Pinot. 18.5/20, 94/100.

Curly Flat Central Pinot Noir 2018

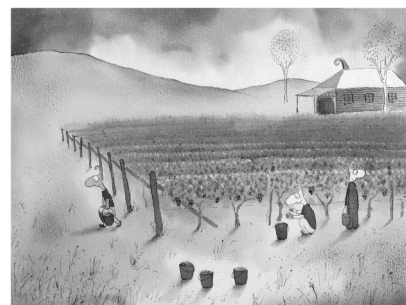
The most masculine of the lineup and feels the most substantial. There's more oak, true, but it's add to the grandeur – a real benchmark Pinot. High toned red fruit, substantial mid palate flavour, reassuring tannins to finish and drive. Velvety, yet not soft. But the acidity marks this as cool climate fare, and the overall balance makes for a very rewarding drink. 18.7/20, 95/100.

Curly Flat Western Pinot Noir 2018

Velvety. Pretty, if just a little fragile and shorter in this company. That prettiness, however, makes it just as convincing, even if I think it sits just marginally below the more balanced ‘Curly Flat’ at the bottom of this hierarchy. 18.4/20, 94/100

Where does the name “Curly Flat” come from?

The name “Curly Flat” comes from the works of iconic Australian cartoonist, Michael Leunig. One of Michael's cartoons is “The Vineyard at Curly Flat”, which has the caption “The locals have never bothered to describe the



taste or construction of their wines but after drinking a couple of glasses they are inclined to become very eloquent in describing the way it makes them feel”. We loved the sentiment of that cartoon. While we wanted to produce a serious wine, we did not want to take ourselves too seriously.